

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 300183

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 6960 ACTION SECSTATE INFO OTTAWA DEC 19.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6960

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PLOS, CA, XF

SUBJ: REINFORCED NAC MEETINGS ON MIDDLE EAST AND LAW OF THE SEA

1. CANDIAN PERMREP MENZIES HAS INFORMED US BY LETTER OF CANADA'S PREFERENCE FOR HOLDING REINFORCED NAC ON THE MIDDLE EAST ON JANUARY 23. TIMING WOULD PERMIT SENIOR CANADIAN OFFICIAL, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY CANADIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY MACEACHEN TO MID EAST, TO PARTICIPATE IN COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS BEFORE RETURNING TO OTTAWA.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ATTEND A REINFORCED NAC ON THE MID EAST DURING JANUARY AND THAT HE TENTATIVELY PERPERS A DATE DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS OF FEBRUARY. SINCE NAC IS NOT NOW SCHEDULED TO MEET UNTIL NEW YEAR, CANADIANS PLAN TO RAISE THEIR PREFERENCE FOR JANUARY 23 AT DECEMBER 23 POLADS MEETING. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO SAY IN POLADS THAT, WHILE APPRECIATING CANADIAN INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S SCHEDULE MAKES
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IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO VISIT BRUSSELS UNTIL FEBRUARY.

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD HAVE A SPECIFIC DATE OR ALTERNATE DATES IN EARLY FEBRUARY TO PROPOSE FOR ALLIED CONSIDERATION.

3. BRITISH HAVE INFORMALLY SUGGESTED TO US THAT REINFORCED NAC ON LAW OF THE SEA MIGHT BE HELD "BACK TO BACK" WITH BRUSSELS MEETING OF EC LAW OF THE SEA EXPERTS NOW SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME IN LATTER HALF OF FEBRUARY. BRITISH HAVE SUGGESTED THAT REINFORCED NAC ON LOS MIGHT BE HELD DAY AFTER EC MEETING. WE THINK IDEA HAS MERIT BECAUSE IT WOULD GIVE US EARLY ACCESS TO EC THINKING ON LATEST LAW OF THE SEA DEVELOPMENTS. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT NINE MAKE FORMAL PROPOSAL ALONG LINES SUGGESTED TO US INFORMALLY BY THE UK.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON ABOVE FOR USE IN DECEMBER 23 POLADS MEETING. BRUCE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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